



ALPHABET SOUP



Editor: Lora Lee Schroeder, EPA Environmental Specialist

FQPA, FIFRA, 2(ee), 24(c), S18, 25(b), CARAT, SAP, PDP, ETC.

An EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) information update to inform regulators, organizations, and the interested public about The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), sustainable agriculture projects, pesticide registration and re-registration decisions, pesticide policy and Regional enforcement updates.

Tribute to EPA's Sustainable Ag Champion



A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. - a Greek proverb

Harry Wells, Jr. of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs Biological and Pollution Prevention Division (OPP-BPPD), will retire at the end of January after more than 30 years of service in environmental protection. A native of the Eastern seaboard, Harry's passion for environmental stewardship has been shaped over a lifetime of working, hunting, and fishing in the woods, fields, and streams of the Mid-Atlantic.

In the early 1970's, Harry worked in the Chesapeake Bay program and helped to

define non-point sources of nutrients that were contributing to pollution of this fragile Atlantic coastal ecosystem. This work led to development of a large watershed-based education program, including farming and urban communities from Pennsylvania to Virginia.

With a clear vision to continue working with agricultural producers on environmental issues, Harry transferred to EPA's Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation. While other staff focused on industrial sources, Harry forged a strong relationship between EPA and USDA's Low Input Sustainable Agriculture's Program (LISA), now known as the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant program. This partnership with USDA has continued over the years, with Harry providing input on Integrated Pest Management policies and serving as EPA's representative on all four regional USDA SARE Administrative Councils.

After passage of the Food Quality Protection Act in 1996, Harry recognized an opportunity to promote adoption of biointensive farming practices and reduce chemical inputs into the environment. Experience from

his early careers in advertising, communications, and policy helped in the development of EPA's Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI), which Harry has managed for BPPD since 1998. The pilot started with four regional staff, including Lora Lee in R4, and \$800,000 for FQPA projects and outreach. By 2003, the SAI has grown to include full-time staff in each of EPA's 10 regions with an annual budget of over \$2 Million dollars. The regional SAI staff continue down the path forged by Harry and work closely with partners on sustainable agricultural issues, including water quality and pesticide risk reduction.

Retirement is a relative term for Harry. He is embarking on a project to work with USDA SARE, which will reconnect alumni advisors and form a network to expand technical expertise for SARE programs throughout the US. Practicing what he preaches, Harry will peddle his diverse collection of home-grown fresh produce at farmer's markets in Eastern Virginia. Of course, Harry's wife Jane has a 'honey-do' list the length of CFR40. And if he can find time to play through all this work, Harry plans to travel, fly fish, and enjoy sailing on the Chesapeake.

In tribute, Harry has planted seeds at EPA and nourished them with his

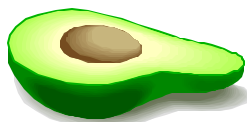
passion for healthy agricultural ecosystems. The roots are deep Harry, ...we hope you enjoy the shade.

Harry Wells can be contacted at alumni@sare.org

By Sandy Halstead, Strategic Ag Initiative Specialist, EPA R10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)

Few Pesticides for Tropical Fruits

By Lora Lee Schroeder, Environmental Specialist, EPA R4



Most of us probably do not think too much about where tropical fruits such as lychee, avocado, mango, macadamia, akee, atemoya, soursop and sapotes are grown. But, a visit to the University of Florida Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead Florida emphasized the importance of these fruits to the increasing demands of the ethnic markets. Minority populations arriving in the United States appreciate the availability of familiar fruits and vegetables. Fortunately, south Florida has the climate to raise many of these crops catering to local fresh markets, however key pest control tools are often unavailable. Virtually all of the tropical fruits and vegetables are considered minor use crops and few pesticides are registered in the United States which can be legally used on these crops. With an abundance of insects and diseases in south Florida, raising saleable tropical fruits and vegetables can be quite challenging.

Dr. Jonathan Crane, a researcher at the Tropical Research and Education Center who arranged the visit between growers and the EPA Strategic Agricultural Initiative Coordinator, hoped that this exchange could result in an increased understanding of the pest management challenges in south Florida and new research opportunities under the Strategic Agricultural Initiative.

The cost of development of data to support registration of pesticides for limited use on minor crops may not justify the economic return to pesticide manufacturers. For this reason, farmers turn to the USDA IR-4 program which is a publicly supported program that conducts field testing in support of pesticide tolerances for minor use crops. Without this program many minor use crops would have no registered pesticides to control insects and diseases. EPA also provides some relief for minor use crops in terms of reduced costs for registration.

Region 4 Hosts National Ag Sector Contact's Meeting

By Ginah Mortensen, Director, EPA National Ag Center

The fifth National EPA Agriculture Sector Contacts Meeting was held November 6 through November 8, 2002 in Atlanta, GA and was sponsored by EPA OECA's (Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance) Ag Center and EPA Region 4. The meeting was hosted by EPA Region 4 and moderated by Lora Lee Schroeder. The planning committee was chaired by Connie Roberts, Ag Sector Contact, EPA Region 4, Lora Lee Schroeder, and Lisa McKinley, Extension Liaison to EPA Region 4.

Eighty-four participants attended the EPA Agriculture Sector Contacts Meeting in Atlanta. All ten EPA

Regions and all the EPA Headquarters media (Air, Water, Waste, Pesticides) programs were represented, as well as Jean-Marie Peltier, Counselor to the Administrator, and her staff. In addition to EPA, the meeting was also attended by representatives from USDA Cooperative State Research and Education Service USDA Natural Resources, Conservation Service, United States Geological Service and State Land Grant Universities. Previous meetings have been held in Kansas City, KS; Dallas, TX; Chicago, IL; and San Francisco, CA.

The theme for the meeting was "Resources, Measures and Results," and included excellent panel discussions on measuring results, barriers to success, implications of the Farm Bill, and air issues. The meeting was held in conjunction with the USDA/CSREES Southern Region Extension Water Quality Planning Committee held earlier in the week. Several members of the Ag Sector group participated in the Extension meeting and many Extension Committee members participated in the Ag Sector meeting, giving both meetings broader perspectives. Participants from both meetings attended tours in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina.

The next Ag Sector Contact meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 24-26, 2003, in Portland, Oregon.

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) Grants Awarded

By Troy Pierce, Ph.D., Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA R4

This year we had several proposals for the PESP grant program. Every EPA region is guaranteed \$40,000 funding for one grant and can send an additional proposal forward for national consideration for \$40,000. This year Region 4 was very lucky to have been able to fund two PESP grants based on

the high quality of the proposals received. Dr. Norm Leppla, the IPM Coordinator at the University of Florida, received funding for his proposal "Increasing Adoption of Reduced Risk Practices in the Production of Woody Ornamentals". I had the good fortune to meet with Norm in December to talk about his grant. Norm's group will be collaborating with the IPM Institute of North America, Inc., Cherry Lake Tree Farm, Dr. Eileen Buss (UFL IFAS) and Frank Melton (Manatee County Extension Agent). The hope from Norm's research is to create an industry driven IPM certification program for woody ornamentals. I was very impressed with the caliber of graduate students working on this project and really enjoyed learning about the Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) professional degree program. The DPM program is designed to prepare practicing doctors who specialize in treating the diseases of plants. The DPM is comparable to doctors who practice veterinary medicine (DVM) and human medicine (M.D. & D.O.). You can read more about the DPM program at <http://www.dpm.ifas.ufl.edu/>. For more information about Dr. Norm Leppla and his work, please check out the following websites: <http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/leppla.htm> and <http://biocontrol.ifas.ufl.edu/projects/pesregional2002minutes.pdf>.

Region 4 was also very pleased to fund an excellent proposal titled "Action Thresholds and Residue Analysis for Integrated Pest Management in North Carolina Elementary Schools" from Drs. Coby Schal, Mike Linker and Michael G. Waldvogel at North Carolina State University. Coby's group is very serious about developing School IPM guidelines including action thresholds for pest management professionals based on German cockroach catches in bait stations. Coby and his team will

also be "monitoring pesticide residues and the residues of cockroach-produced allergens that can exacerbate childhood asthma, in both conventional and IPM-based pest control services" in schools. This project also concentrates on effective monitoring to target specific locations for treatment where sheltered aggregations of cockroaches occur. If you would like to read more about Dr. Coby Schal and his research these websites have some good information: <http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/cep/ligon/sciblast/schal/roachweb.htm> and <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/DIRECTORY/schal.html>.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Spanish Language Outreach

By Mark Bean, Project Officer, EPA R4

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food and Drug Protection, Pesticides Section, has initiated a number of training and outreach programs for Hispanic and Latin American farm laborers. Using funds from the Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund, a Spanish language pesticide safety video featuring North Carolina agricultural practices was developed. The video also sought to limit exposure of workers and families by stressing personal hygiene and laundering contaminated clothing separately. Spanish translations of training manuals in commonly used certification categories for Hispanic workers were made available. The categories Ornamental and Turf, Private Applicator, and Right-of-Way were put into use, and Ag-Pest Plant is being developed. Additionally, a glossary of common agricultural terms geared toward Mexican workers is under development. The glossary is intended to incorporate regional dialects and

definitions into a single publication.

When students from Duke University, the University of North Carolina, and members of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee sponsored a boycott of Mt. Olive Pickles (Mt. Olive) on the basis that cucumber farmers under contract to Mt. Olive were not in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, a working group was formed to ensure grower compliance with pesticide and labor laws. The working group was composed of persons from Mt. Olive, Duke University, the North Carolina Department of Labor, and the Pesticide Section. The working group may be extended to address other commodities.

Outreach to migrant laborers is being accomplished through health care providers because the laborers view them as non-threatening.

The Pesticide Section has made a bilingual specialist available to inspectors conducting Worker Protection Standard (WPS) inspections. A Spanish language train-the-trainer program has been presented to more than 220 Hispanic laborers who are then able to give training on WPS to other Spanish-speaking workers. Additionally, the bilingual specialist has worked through the North Carolina Growers Association, a labor contracting organization, to give orientation to 5,190 migrant laborers regarding pesticides this year.

Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Factsheets

The WPS works to reduce pesticide-related illness and injury for pesticide workers, handlers, and employers. The National Ag Center developed a series of fact sheets addressing the most common questions it receives concerning the WPS. Topics include posting requirements, safety equipment, and information exchange. The factsheets are available via the National Ag Center homepage (www.epa.gov/agriculture) under Publications, or by calling 1-888-663-2155 toll-free.

Pesticide Enforcement and Compliance Updates

Lentek International, Inc. Agrees to Pay Fines for Misbranding Pesticides

By Joan Davis, Project Officer, EPA R4

Lentek International, Inc. agreed to pay fines in the amount of \$120,000 as part of a Consent Agreement and Final Order negotiation concluded in December 2002.

Lentek International, Inc., is an Orlando, Florida based corporation that manufactures ultrasonic mosquito repelling devices, other pest repelling and electronic devices, and pesticide pads. The company was charged with violating provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. §§ 136 *et seq.*

According to the EPA, Lentek International sold and distributed misbranded pesticidal devices and pesticides. Violations included the use of the EPA emblem on their product labeling, making safety claims not allowed under FIFRA, failure to identify the facility in which the product was manufactured on the product label, and denial of entry of state inspectors to the facility.

The company had no prior FIFRA violations. Lentek International is now under new ownership.

***** Farm Worker Protection- Focus on Lyons, GA *****

By Richard Corbett and Andy Wilson, Project Officers, EPA R4

Approximately one million migrant and seasonal agriculture workers work

throughout Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee) during the growing seasons. These workers and their families live at or below the poverty levels in substandard housing camps provided by their employers. Over 30 percent of these workers do not speak or read English, which makes communication with employers and Federal and State regulators difficult. When possible, Region 4 State regulators provide interpreters to inspectors that are bilingual

PESTICIDE WORKER PROTECTION TIPS AND COMPLAINTS:

Departments of Agriculture Phone #s

AL-334-240-7242

FL-850-488-3314

GA-404-656-9371

KY-502-564-7274

MS-662-325-7763

NC-919-733-3356

Special Hotline #s

SC-1-800-209-1112

TN-1-800-628-2631

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the WPS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Region 4 States have committed to target on-farm inspections. These on-farm inspections include in-depth inspections of the employers and, most important, require interviews with workers to verify that employers are providing appropriate personal protective equipment and complying with all aspects of the WPS

EPA Region 4, the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Legal Services Program are working closely with Southeast Georgia Communities

Project (SEGACP), a migrant worker community organization in Lyons, Georgia. On October 19, 2002 Andy Wilson, Richard Corbett and Troy Pierce, of the EPA Region 4 Pesticide Section gave a presentation to a group of several hundred Spanish speaking migrant farm-workers at a Health Forum in Lyons, Georgia.

Staff from Region 4 Pesticides Section along with Lucia Mendez from the EPA Region 4 Environmental Accountability Division and Luz Colon from the EPA Region 4 Water Program also provided materials and answered questions during the Health Forum.

SEGACP assists the State and Region in pesticide safety training for workers, obtains tips and complaints from the workers, assists in interpretations, and conducts outreach programs for the employers. This type of effort affords more comprehensive understanding of actual field conditions where pesticide exposure is likely to occur. Similar activities are being carried out throughout the Region.

Retiring/Leaving:

Carlton Layne

National Pesticide Expert retired from EPA Region 4 on January 3, 2003. Carlton is well known for his wit and ability to train and entertain an audience at the same time. With his extensive experience in both civil and criminal investigations, Carlton is likely to be in high demand in his new consulting business.

Carlton was Chief of the Pesticide Section at Region 4 for approximately 10 years and facilitated high profile investigations into cases like the misuse of methyl parathion in homes in Dothan, Alabama and, most recently, the misuse of pesticides on quail plantations. Early in his career Carlton worked both as an inspector with the United States Department of Agriculture and later as a

federal inspector with the United States Environmental Protection Agency .

Carlton was royally roasted by friends at a retirement party with a theme of "Carlton for President," replete with campaign buttons and banners.

We wish Carlton well in his new endeavors. The lunch clutch will not be the same without Carlton working the daily crossword puzzle.

Carlton can be contacted at [<Carlton@CarltonLayne.com>](mailto:Carlton@CarltonLayne.com)

LoriAnn Thrupp

FQPA Coordinator for EPA Region 9, left EPA after three years on December 6, 2002, to work for Fetzer Vineyards in grower relations to help the company meet the ambitious goal of converting all their growers to organic viticulture by the year 2010. Her FQPA colleagues are already planning their California wine tours! Ann is gone but definitely not forgotten. We will be checking in to learn of her progress from time to time.

Introducing:

Phillip Beard

Currently assigned in 2002 as an **Environmental Protection Specialist** in the EPA Region 4 Pesticides Section working as a Compliance Officer/Case Development. Prior to this position, in 2001, provided administrative support for the EPA Toxic Section. Before an assignment with the U.S. EPA Region 4 in 1999, he worked for the Department of the Army as a military personnel clerk assigned in the Transition Center as a counselor and processed U.S. Army soldiers and reservists for discharge. He also held positions in the Army as Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Drill Instructor, Observer

Controller and Instructor. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1998 after successfully completing 20 years of active federal service.

Erica Wyatt

Currently employed as a **Life Scientist** in the EPA Region 4 Pesticide Section. Earned a BS in Biology from Alabama A&M University and a MBA from DeVry University in June of 2002.

Worked for 2 years for the Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, as an Environmental Specialist in the Underground Storage Tank Management Program. Originally from Mobile, AL

From the Editor...

To view an electronic version of *Alphabet Soup*, visit the Region 4 website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/pesticides/newslett.htm>

Readers are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions to improve *Alphabet Soup*. To do so, please contact:

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